

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Presently Amended) A method for detecting the presence of at least one of squamous cell carcinoma and prostate cancer in a subject comprising:  
  
providing a tissue sample from the subject; and  
  
assaying for ~~expression~~ presence of DESC1 mRNA ~~gene~~ in the sample, using at least one nucleic acid that hybridizes with the DESC1 mRNA under conditions about 5° to about 20° C below the T<sub>m</sub> of said nucleic acid;  
  
wherein reduced level of DESC1 mRNA, as compared to a normal tissue sample taken from the same tissue of the same subject, ~~expression~~ is indicative of the presence of at least one of squamous cell carcinoma and prostate cancer.
- 2-22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the head, neck, or prostate of the subject.
24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the head or neck of the subject.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the prostate of the subject.
26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the expression of DESC1 in the sample is detected by testing for the presence of at least one of nucleotides 626-1321 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and nucleotides 626-1321 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one nucleic acid is chosen from SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 10.